

**REMARKS**

In the Final Office Action mailed June 19, 2007, and Advisory Action mailed September 13, 2007, claims 1-14 and 50-70 were pending. Claims 1-10, 12-14, 50-52, 54-56, 58-68 and 70 stand rejected, while claims 11, 53, 57 and 69 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this response, claims 2-4, 6-7, 11-14, 53, 57-60 and 69-70 have been amended, while claims 1, 5, 8-10, 50-52, 54-56, and 61-68 have been cancelled in addition to the previously cancelled claims 15-49. This amendment has been submitted to rewrite allowable dependent claims in independent form and to change various dependencies of certain claims in view of the cancellation of other claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application as amended and including claims 2-4, 6-7, 11-14, 54, 57-60 and 69-70 are hereby requested.

Specifically, claim 53 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating claims 1, 5 and 50-52, and claims 1, 5 and 50-52 have been cancelled. Claims 2-4 and 6-7 have been amended to depend from claim 53 rather than claim 1.

Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating claims 8-10, and claims 8-10 have been cancelled. Claims 12-14 have been amended to depend from claim 11 rather than claim 8.

Claim 57 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating claims 54-56, and claims 54-56 have been cancelled. Claims 58-60 have been amended to depend from claim 57 rather than claim 54.

Claim 69 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating claims 66-68, and claims 66-68 have been cancelled. Claim 70 has been amended to depend from claim 69 rather than claim 66.

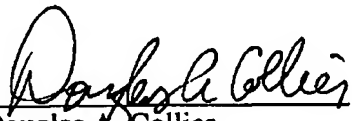
The above amendments to claims 53, 11, 57, and 69 incorporate respective base claim but have omitted "defining an implantation direction of the spinal implant" after "a leading end wall" in lines 2 or 3 thereof. Claims 53, 11, 57 and 69 were indicated to be allowable in the first office action mailed January 10, 2007, and "defining an implantation direction of the spinal implant" was added to the base claims 1, 8, 54, and 66 in the next response but did not result in allowance of these base claims. Accordingly, omission of this feature from the amended claims herein does

not raise new issues for consideration by the examiner, and the amended claims are allowable as indicated by the examiner in the January 10, 2007 office action.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance with pending claims 2-4, 6-7, 11-14, 54, 57-60 and 69-70. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Timely action towards a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted:

By:

  
Douglas A. Collier  
Reg. No. 43,556  
Krieg DeVault LLP  
2800 One Indiana Square  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2079  
Phone: (317) 238-6333

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